

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for scheduling the personal interview of March 23, 2005 and for the courtesies extended to the Applicant's Representative, James Baker, at the interview. The indication of allowance of the proposed claims, found in the interview summary, is acknowledged.

Claim 1 is amended in order to more clearly define the claimed invention and remove the word "inwardly" which is objected to in the Office Action. Support for the amendment is found at page 16, lines 8 – 12. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added. It is believed that this response is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed January 5, 2005. The allowance of Claims 4 and 5 is acknowledged.

The present claimed invention is a mounting structure of an electric junction box, in which an external wiring harness is connected to an internal electronic unit through a busbar. The mounting structure has a terminal part of the busbar; a housing member for receiving the terminal part; and a projecting piece comprising an L-shaped plate having a thin part, a step part and a thick part, projecting from a circumferential wall of the housing member. The projecting piece has a cavity part, into which an electric contact part of the busbar is inserted. The terminal part is combined with the housing member to form a connector part, which is connected to a mating connector of the external wiring harness. The electric contact part is inserted into the cavity part so as to correct an inclined electric contact part, thereby connecting a corrected electric contact part to the electronic unit.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kato, U.S. Patent No. 5,913,689. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Kato describes a mounting structure of an electrical junction box having a terminal part (109) of a busbar (107); a housing member (102); a projecting piece (the section of wall (102) surrounded by wall (104)) projecting inwardly from a circumferential wall (104); an electric contact part (109a) of the busbar being inserted into the cavity (105); and terminal part (109) and the housing member (102) forming a connector. It is further alleged that tapered faces (109a) of the electric contact part (109a) are inserted into the cavities by way of inclined faces (1) in order to correct any potential misalignments.

It is respectfully submitted that in Kato, cavity (105), circumferential wall (104) and terminal part of the busbar (109), make up connector (110), which corresponds to connector (3), of the present invention, which is made up of cavity (opening) (54), circumferential wall (52), and terminal part (33) of the busbar (30), as best viewed in Figs. 2 and 3. The above-described connectors of Kato and the present claimed invention are for use in connecting to a mating connector of an external wiring harness.

As presently claimed, in Claim 1, a projecting piece (55) projects from the circumferential wall (52) and the projecting piece (55) has a cavity part (56) for receiving an electric contact part (36) of the busbar (30) for correcting an inclined electric contact part. When an inclined electric contact part (36) of the busbar (30) is received into the cavity part (56), the cavity part (56) corrects the inclination and connects the electric contact part (36) to an electronic unit (5).

It appears as though there may be a misunderstanding as to the makeup of the present busbar (30), which has tab-shaped terminal parts (33) at one end and tab-shaped electric contact parts (36) at an opposite end, as described at page 15, lines 20-23 of the present specification. In details of the

present rejection, an alleged terminal part (109) of a busbar (107), and an alleged electric contact part (109A) of the busbar (107), are mentioned. However, such busbar parts are not at opposite ends of busbar (107), as (109a) is only a sloping surface on alleged terminal part (109), (see col. 1, lines 38-39). Since the cited junction box does not have a busbar having a terminal part at one end and an electric contact part at an opposite end, it is not possible to have the present claim read on it, as every element recited in the claim is not present to be arranged in a manner to have the claimed corrective action carried out on it.

It is respectfully submitted that Kato does not describe or suggest any portion projecting from a circumferential wall of a housing member (housing a terminal part of a busbar) which has a cavity part for receiving and correcting an inclined electric contact part of a busbar and making a connection to an electronic unit, the terminal part of the busbar being at an opposite end of the busbar from the electric contact part of the busbar.

Firstly, an electronic unit is not mentioned by Kato, Kato only mentions a junction box having wiring board (108) for busbars (107), which corresponds to the present wiring board (10) having busbars (30). Therefore such claimed connecting to an electronic unit could not be disclosed.

Secondly, the only cavities mentioned in the alleged housing member (102) of Kato are cavities (105), which are part of the connector (110) discussed above, and which would correspond to openings in the present cavity (54) through which terminal parts (33) of the busbar (30) project to form the present connector (3).

It is respectfully submitted that cavities (105) of Kato can not properly be said to correspond to both a component of the connector (110) and the claimed cavities (56) of a piece (55) projecting from a circumferential wall (52) of the connector (110).

In addition to the above remarks, in order to remove any question as to the present claimed invention being distinct from the cited reference, Claim 1 is presently amended, as shown above, to define the make up of the projecting piece (55) in more detail. The projecting piece is now defined as having a thin part, a step part, and a thick part.

In view of the above remarks and the amendment to Claim 1, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that Claims 1-3, as well as Claims 4 and 5 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

If there are any issues of a minor nature remaining, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's attorney, the undersigned, at Area Code (202) 659-2930.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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